

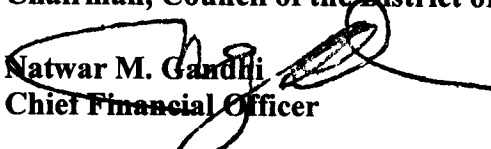
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi 
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: October 3, 2008

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Veterinary Practice Amendment Act of 2008"

REFERENCE: Draft - No Bill Number Available

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the proposed FY 2009 through FY 2012 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation.

Background

The proposed legislation would move the provisions of D.C. Official Code Title 3 Chapter 5, entitled "Board of Veterinary Examiners," to Title 3 Chapter 12, "Health Occupations Boards." It would also rename the Board of Veterinary Examiners, the Board of Veterinary Medicine.

The proposed bill would establish a new license category for animal facilities and authorize the Mayor to certify veterinary euthanasia technicians. It would also provide for a "Good Samaritan" exemption for any person, including a veterinarian, who provides emergency care or treatment to an injured animal or an animal separated from its owner. Finally, the proposed legislation would require the Mayor to conduct annual inspections of all animal facilities.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the proposed FY 2009 through FY 2012 budget and financial plan to implement the provisions of the proposed legislation.

Implementation of the proposed legislation could be absorbed with existing agency resources; no additional resources would be required. Under current regulations, the Department of Health (DOH) already conducts annual inspections of all animal facilities. The proposed bill would give the current regulations a statutory basis and codify existing practice.

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) estimates that the proposed legislation would not have a measurable revenue impact on the budget and financial plan. DOH anticipates that the new license *category* for animal facilities would not change actual fees *charged* for such licensure. Also, DOH estimates, and the OCFO concurs, that authorizing the Mayor to certify veterinary euthanasia technicians would likely not result in a certain or measurable revenue impact. This is due to the small number of individuals in this population and the uncertainty of whether and when the implementation of said certification would occur.

Two provisions of the proposed bill have already been included in Act 17-493, the Animal Protection Amendment Act of 2008, enacted on August 4, 2008. The fiscal effects of these provisions were already taken into consideration in the fiscal impact statement signed on July 11, 2008. One of these provisions allows veterinarians licensed in Maryland or Virginia to practice in the District for no more than 120 hours annually under certain enumerated circumstances. The other provision allows licensed veterinarians to issue animal licenses and to collect an additional \$2 for each license issued as reimbursement for administrative costs.